



Arlington Disability Commission Minutes

Date: December 18, 2019

Time: 4:00 pm

Location: 27 Maple Street, 2nd floor conference room

Attendance: Commissioners Cynthia DeAngelis (Chair), Michael Rademacher (Public Works Director), Karen Mathiasen, Darcy Devney, Paul Raia, Maureen St. Hilaire, Kerrie Fallon

Others: Christine Bongiorno (Director of Health & Human Services), Christine St. Hilaire, Jack Jones, Rebecca Wolfe (APD), Acting Chief Julie Flaherty (APD)

Absent: Liza Molina,

Minutes

1. Welcome and introductions
2. November 2019 meeting minutes unanimously approved.
3. Food Link presentation tabled until future meeting.
4. Presentation made by Acting Police Chief Julie Flaherty and Mental Health Clinician Rebecca Wolfe. Flaherty reported that there were some outstanding accessibility related updates that need to be made at the Community Safety Building including a repair to the elevator to allow persons more time to enter the elevator and automatic door openers will soon be added to the front and back entrances to the building to allow residents with mobility impairments to enter effortlessly. Flaherty also reported that the Department has a handicap accessible prison cell as well as a 911 TTY service and text to 911 service. Rebecca Wolfe reported that the Officers have all received mental health first aid training as well as ALEC training for a baseline understanding on how to work with residents on the autism spectrum. Wolfe also reported that the Department has been recognized as a leader in the nation on mental health and is currently serving as one of ten learning sites across the country that hosts police departments each year.
5. Christine Bongiorno reported that the new Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Coordinator has been hired. Jillian Harvey comes to the town with a lot of relevant experience and

will be a good fit for the three commissions that she will work with. Harvey starts on Monday, December 30, 2019.

6. Bongiorno reported that \$3,000 for education remains unspent in the budget. The Commission had previously approved \$10,000 to improve doors on front of town hall, \$3,000 for town website accessibility and \$7,500 for accessibility improvements for meeting space for the Commission.
7. Correspondence received from resident John Sanbonmatsu asking to meet about getting a town warrant to allow for accommodations to be made for disabled Town Meeting Members who may be physically unable to attend Town Meeting in person. Specifically skype or zoom. Commissioners asked that resident be invited to next meeting to discuss concerns in more detail. Commission requested that contact be made with the Arlington Special Education Department and the Director be invited to an upcoming meeting.
8. Next month agenda: Commission would like to discuss: a community services panel, accessible technology for meeting, future guest speakers.
9. Adjourned at 5:15pm